King County Immigrant & Commission Meeting 3/20/2019

Date: Wed, March 20, 2019

Location: Greenbridge Learning Center, 9270 8th Ave, SW Seattle, WA 98106 (White Center)

Participants: Immigrant & Refugee Commissioners; Bookda,

Agenda

5:00PM | Welcome & sign and submit 2019 Financial Disclosure Statements
5:30PM | Accept meeting minutes from January and February Meetings
      Final approval of the bylaws
      Final approval of the equity statement
6:00PM | Work plan discussion and feedback
6:30PM | Wrap up, reviewed Action Items and Next Steps

Action Items:
- Accept meeting minutes from January Meeting (Bookda will follow up and send them)
- Minal is going to create a google doc with potential stakeholders
- Commission members will select their respective subcommittees

Attendance & Introductions 5:00PM-5:30PM

Immigrant and Refugee Commissioners in Attendance:
Senayet Negusse, Fo-Ching Lu, Nimco Bulale, Monserrat Padilla, Andrew Kritovich
Minal Kode Ghassemieh, Hamdi Mohamed, Miguel Angel Duncan-Galvez Bravo
Lalita Uppala by phone: Mohamed Bakr

Absent Commissioners: Issa Ndiaye, Medard Ngueita, Mohammad Jan Ofuq

Other Attendees:
- Bookda Gheisar, King County Immigrant and Refugee Policy Analyst
- Rich Stolz – Executive Director, OneAmerica
- Matias Valenzuela – King County Office of Equity and Social Justice, Director
- Alaric Bien, City of Redmond
- Oliver? (full name?), YWCA Program Coordinator
- Kristina Logsdon, Chief of Staff for Rod Dembowski, Chair of King County Council

Commissioners Vote 5:30PM-5:45PM

Approval of February Meeting Minutes
Approved: Senayet Negusse stated, “I motion to approve the meeting notes from February 20, 2019”
Andrew Kritovich seconded the vote. Fo-Ching, Andrew, Mohammed all voted in agreement.
Abstained: Nimco Bulale, Lalita Uppala and Minal Ghassemieh (did not attend February meeting)
Absent: Issa Ndiaye, Medard Ngueita, Mohammad Jan Ofuq, Monserrat Padilla
Outcome: The February 2019 meeting minutes have been approved.

Approval of Bylaws (Bylaws were adopted)
Approved: Minal motioned to approve the bylaws in the final format. Hamdi Mohamed seconded, Fo-Ching, Senayet, Andrew, Lalita, Miguel, Nimco and Mohamed agreed to accept the bylaws in the final format.
Absent: Issa Ndiaye, Medard Ngueita, Mohammad Jan Ofuq, Monserrat Padilla
Mohamed Bakr expressed concern about the term limit for those who only serve 1 year. Bookda noted that the Ordinance outlined that commissioners would serve in staggered terms and that terms begin and end on September 30th.
Outcome: The Bylaws have been adopted by the Immigrant and Refugee Commission.

Approval of the Equity Statement
There was discussion around whether or not we should vote on the equity statement. Members agreed that it should be living document. Mr. Matias thinks it would be great to post it on the website similar to the Children Youth Advisory Board.
Approved: Miguel motions to vote to approve the Equity Statement with the understanding that there may be changes to the Guiding principles. Minal seconded and the rest of the board members including Hamdi, Fo-Ching, Senayet, Andrew, Nimco, Lalita and Mohamed voted to accept the Equity Statement.
Absent: Issa Ndiaye, Medard Ngueita, Mohammad Jan Ofuq, Monserrat Padilla
Outcome: The Immigrant and Refugee Commission has accepted the Equity Statement as a living document.

Recap of King County Council Meetings 5:45-5:58PM
Minal Ghassemieh described the meeting with the Councilmembers. Hamdi, Nimco and Minal spoke and debriefed about SeaTac. We also requested Council support. Minal noted that it was especially powerful as many members of commission are constituents of SeaTac. (paraphrase)
Lalita Uppala added that it wasn’t a done deal when commissioners were presented. Councilmember Lambert wanted to see who the people were. Once they did, councilmembers were happy to put a face to the name. (paraphrase)
Nimco Bulale continued to say that It was great to present on the work we have been doing since November. Nimco said the commission was able to communicate their vision and the work that’s been happening. Nimco emphasized the importance of meeting with councilmembers and understanding their views. (paraphrase)
Andrew Kritovich noted that his district’s councilmember was not there. However, he plans to meet with him soon.
Bookda Gheisar added that it was interesting to see a councilmember who was instrumental in this piece of legislation hesitate to approve the commissioners that day. However, once they saw the faces of commission members they were able to move forward.
Comissioners discussed how they could reach out to councilmembers and leverage the relationships being made. They discussed strategies on how to hold councilmembers accountable including; by inviting them to meetings and town halls.
Recap of SeaTac Meeting & Updates (Section paraphrased) 5:58PM-6:40PM

Hamdi Mohamed, Bookda Gheisar, Paige Shevlin and members of the SeaTac Coalition met twice since the last meeting.

Hamdi Mohamed stated that the SeaTac Coalition would like to set a time to meet with councilmembers. Councilmembers to meet with them, share their stories and see if they can offer solutions (funding, or support with relocation). Hamdi Mohamed noted that the coalition would like to come up with short term plans and long-term plan around the commercial displacement and gentrification that is happening throughout King County.

The final space of the sale was signed. There is a lot of discrepancies about the space. Paige Shevlin and Bookda Gheisar are going to see the official final plan for the use of space.

There will be 40,000 square foot space for shops at Market Price. The discussion has now moved to “what are the short-term plans?” By August 30th, all businesses have to be moved out. Paige has been working with the South Chambers of Commerce. They are searching for spaces and offering information on lots in the area. This may work as a short-term option.

In terms of long-term options, Abubakr Mosque may have space available. The organization Forterra adopted a social justice lens and will work with the mosque to launch an $18 million campaign. The person hired to help build the campaign has an additional 50 thousand square feet. There is also a massive lot available near the light rail station. These long term options however, are four years out. The businesses are displeased with the fact that they will have to spread out. Community members continue to advocate for an international market but there hasn’t been any realistic plan to fulfill that.

Rich Stolz asked the following questions, “What can the commission do as a commission? How do you establish precedence? What is the economic strategy that supports immigrant and refugee business?” Rich added, that this commission isn’t a legislative body and that the commission could extend an invitation to council. Though the commission is not a legislative body, they organize a town hall meeting and request councilmembers attend. Rich also emphasized the importance of leveraging community relationships and partnerships. The purpose of creating ex-officio roles is to identify allies in those sectors who can then help organize other organizations, local businesses, community and foundations. Rich asked, “What are some other organizations/ foundations to bring in?”

Representative Mia Gregerson is in charge of the $1.2 million that was awarded to the City of SeaTac. King County Councilmember Upthegrove said there may be a possibility of supplemental budget money to help with relocation assistance. It would not be a match $1.2 million.

Commission members discussed looking into equitable economic policy development around supporting small businesses. Rich Stolz recommended seeking out like-minded city and county officials who can support the potential equitable economic policies the commission envisions.

YWCA Coordinator shared his experience working as one of the Communities of Opportunity sites. The YWCA was responsible for the economic development and wellbeing of residents. There was a business outreach specialist supporting business however, that position was no longer funded.
Bookda and Paige are working with SeaTac Coalition on solutions. They have come up with possible solutions. Matias Valenzuela suggested that the commission look at broader policy options that might exist at different levels.

### Work Plan Discussion: Subcommittee

There was discussion around whether the commission should just focus on one of the four buckets in the workplan. Commissioners agreed that it would be best to keep the four areas of work, divide and conquer. Each present commissioner self-selected into a subcommittee. Commission will brainstorm individuals, foundations and businesses from each of their networks who may support the work of the subcommittees.

### Work Plan Subcommittees

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Community Development</th>
<th>Immigrant Rights and Social Justice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Possible Area of Focus:</strong> Displacement of small businesses</td>
<td><strong>Possible Area of Focus:</strong> Census 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Hamdi Mohamed</td>
<td>- Miguel Angel Duncan-Galvez Bravo</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Monserrat Padilla</td>
<td>- Nimco Bulale</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Senayet Negusse</td>
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<td>- Fo-Ching Lu</td>
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<tr>
<th>Capacity Building: Building a regional resource hub for IR communities to be a critical and unified force</th>
<th>Priority population services and opportunities-leverage and support and inform existing strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Possible Area of Focus:</strong> Relationship-building with key constituencies</td>
<td><strong>Possible Area of Focus:</strong> Family safety- ICE and DHS and/or Connect with and engage all other commissions and boards</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Lalita Uppala</td>
<td>- Andrew Kritovich</td>
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Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.